

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of facilitating a project bid process, the method comprising:
 - 2 generating a buyer-associated bid request utilizing at least a portion of bid item
 - 3 selections of a stored bid item list;
 - 4 transmitting the buyer-associated bid request to at least one supplier for
 - 5 solicitation of a supplier bid response to be generated with the bid item selections utilized in the
 - 6 buyer-associated bid request;
 - 7 generating a supplier-associated bid request utilizing at least a portion of the bid
 - 8 item selections utilized in the buyer-associated bid request; and
 - 9 transmitting the supplier-associated bid request to at least one subcontracting
 - 10 entity for solicitation of a subcontracting-entity bid response to be generated with the bid item
 - 11 selections utilized in the supplier-associated bid request.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the buyer-associated bid
 - 2 request further comprises:
 - 3 receiving buyer-associated bid request data from the buyer for the buyer-
 - 4 associated bid request; and
 - 5 storing the buyer-associated bid request data within fields associated with at least
 - 6 a portion of the bid item selections.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 receiving the supplier bid response; and
3 wherein the supplier bid response includes bid response data within fields
4 associated with at least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in the buyer-associated bid
5 request.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 receiving the subcontracting-entity bid response; and
3 wherein the subcontracting-entity bid response includes bid response data within
4 fields associated with at least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in the supplier-
5 associated bid request.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising transmitting the supplier bid response
2 to the buyer upon completion of all required ones of the fields by the supplier.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising transmitting the subcontracting-entity
2 bid response to the supplier upon completion of all required ones of the fields by the
3 subcontracting entity.

1 7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 receiving an acceptance of the subcontracting-entity bid response;
3 receiving a selection of at least a portion of the bid response data included in the
4 subcontracting-entity bid response; and
5 updating the supplier bid response with the selected at least a portion of the bid
6 response data included in the subcontracting-entity bid response.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising transmitting the supplier bid response
2 to the buyer.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving a buyer request to access
2 data relative to the subcontracting-entity bid response.

1 10. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of transmitting the buyer-associated bid
2 request comprises selecting the at least one supplier to receive the buyer-associated bid request
3 using the buyer-associated bid request data.

1 11. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of transmitting the supplier-associated
2 bid request comprises selecting the at least one subcontracting entity to receive the supplier-
3 associated bid request using the supplier-associated bid request data.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of selecting the at least one supplier
2 further comprises:

3 maintaining supplier information associated with the at least one supplier; and

4 comparing the buyer-associated bid request data with the supplier information to
5 select the at least one supplier.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the at least one
2 subcontracting entity further comprises:

3 maintaining subcontracting-entity information associated with the at least one
4 subcontracting entity; and

5 comparing the supplier-associated bid request data with the subcontracting-entity
6 information to select the at least one subcontracting entity.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 receiving the subcontracting-entity bid response;

3 receiving the supplier bid response;

4 receiving a supplier bid award;

5 transmitting a purchase requisition to the supplier;

6 transmitting a parsed purchase requisition to the subcontracting entity; and

7 wherein the parsed purchase requisition is a subset of the purchase requisition.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the purchase requisition is submitted to the
2 supplier for purposes of acceptance and tax assessment.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the parsed purchase requisition is submitted to
2 the subcontracting entity for purposes of acceptance and tax assessment.

1 17. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
2 receiving a completed parsed purchase requisition from the subcontracting entity;
3 and
4 generating a completed purchase requisition.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating the completed purchase
2 requisition comprises aggregating at least one completed purchase requisition.

1 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
2 generating a buyer-associated purchase order to the supplier;
3 generating a supplier-associated purchase order to the subcontracting entity;
4 responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may be paid directly
5 by the buyer, generating a buyer-associated purchase order to the subcontracting entity.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the supplier-associated bid
2 request further comprises:
3 receiving supplier-associated bid request data from the supplier for the supplier-
4 associated bid request;
5 wherein the supplier-associated bid request data is selected from buyer-associated
6 bid request data; and
7 storing the supplier-associated bid request data within fields associated with at
8 least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in the buyer-associated bid request.

1 21. A computer system for facilitating a bid process for a project involving a buyer, a
2 supplier, and at least one subcontracting entity, the computer system comprising:
3 a database system for maintaining a configurable pre-established bid item list and
4 a bid template for the project;
5 wherein the bid template includes bid item selections selected from the bid item
6 list;
7 a server connected to the database system and connectable to the buyer, the
8 supplier, and the at least one subcontracting entity; and
9 wherein the server is operable to:
10 generate a buyer-associated bid request utilizing the bid template;
11 transmit the buyer-associated bid request to the supplier;
12 generate a supplier-associated bid request via a parsing of the supplier-
13 associated bid request;
14 transmit the supplier-associated bid request to the at least one
15 subcontracting entity;
16 receive a subcontracting entity bid response to the supplier-associated bid
17 request;
18 receive a supplier bid response, the supplier bid response incorporating, at
19 least in part, data from the subcontracting entity bid response.

1 22. The computer system of claim 21, wherein generation of the buyer-associated bid
2 request further comprises:

3 receiving buyer-associated bid request data from the buyer for the buyer-
4 associated bid request; and

5 storing the buyer-associated bid request data within fields associated with at least
6 a portion of the bid item selections.

1 23. The computer system of claim 22, wherein the supplier bid response includes bid
2 response data within fields associated with at least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in
3 the buyer-associated bid request.

1 24. The computer system of claim 23, wherein the subcontracting entity bid response
2 includes bid response data within fields associated with at least a portion of the bid item
3 selections utilized in the supplier-associated bid request.

1 25. The computer system of claim 25, wherein the server is further operable to
2 transmit the supplier bid response to the buyer.

1 26. The computer system of claim 25, wherein the server is further operable to
2 transmit the subcontracting entity bid response to the supplier.

1 27. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the server is further operable to:
2 receive an acceptance of the subcontracting entity bid response;
3 receive a selection of at least a portion of the bid response data included in the
4 subcontracting entity bid response; and
5 update the supplier bid response with the selected at least a portion of the bid
6 response data included in the subcontracting entity bid response.

1 28. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the server is further operable to
2 transmit the supplier bid response to the buyer.

1 29. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the server is further operable to
2 receive a buyer request to access data relative to the subcontracting entity bid response.

1 30. The computer system of claim 23, wherein the transmission of the buyer-
2 associated bid request comprises selecting the at least one supplier to receive the buyer-
3 associated bid request using the buyer-associated bid request data.

1 31. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the transmission of the supplier-
2 associated bid request comprises selecting the at least one subcontracting entity to receive the
3 supplier-associated bid request using the supplier-associated bid request data.

1 32. The computer system of claim 30, wherein the selection of the at least one
2 supplier further comprises:
3 maintaining supplier information associated with the at least one supplier; and
4 comparing the buyer-associated bid request data with the supplier information to
5 select the at least one supplier.

1 33. The computer system of claim 31, wherein the selection of the at least one
2 subcontracting entity further comprises:
3 maintaining subcontracting entity information associated with the at least one
4 subcontracting entity; and
5 comparing the supplier-associated bid request data with the subcontracting entity
6 information to select the at least one subcontracting entity.

1 34. The computer system of claim 31, wherein the server is further operable to:
2 receive a supplier bid award;
3 transmit a purchase requisition to the supplier;
4 transmit a parsed purchase requisition to the subcontracting entity; and
5 wherein the parsed purchase requisition is a subset of the purchase requisition.

1 35. The computer system of claim 34, wherein the purchase requisition is submitted
2 to the supplier for purposes of acceptance and tax assessment.

1 36. The computer system of claim 34, wherein the parsed purchase requisition is
2 submitted to the subcontracting entity for purposes of acceptance and tax assessment.

1 37. The computer system of claim 34, wherein the server is further operable to:
2 receive a completed parsed purchase requisition from the subcontracting entity;
3 and
4 generate a completed purchase requisition.

1 38. The computer system of claim 37, wherein the generation of the completed
2 purchase requisition comprises aggregating at least one completed purchase requisition.

1 39. The computer system of claim 37, wherein the server is further operable to:
2 generate a buyer-associated purchase order to the supplier;
3 generate a supplier-associated purchase order to the subcontracting entity; and
4 responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may be paid directly
5 by the buyer, generate a buyer-associated purchase order to the subcontracting entity.

1 40. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the generation of the supplier-
2 associated bid request further comprises:
3 receiving supplier-associated bid request data from the supplier for the supplier-
4 associated bid request;
5 wherein the supplier-associated bid request data is selected from buyer-associated
6 bid request data; and
7 storing the supplier-associated bid request data within fields associated with at
8 least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in the buyer-associated bid request.

1 41. In a computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored
2 thereon, the computer-executable instructions comprising:
3 means for generating a buyer-associated bid request utilizing at least a portion of
4 bid item selections of a stored bid item list;
5 means for transmitting the buyer-associated bid request to at least one supplier for
6 solicitation of a supplier bid response to be generated with the bid item selections utilized in the
7 buyer-associated bid request;
8 means for generating a supplier-associated bid request utilizing at least a portion
9 of the bid item selections utilized in the buyer-associated bid request; and
10 means for transmitting the supplier-associated bid request to at least one
11 subcontracting entity for solicitation of a subcontracting-entity bid response to be generated with
12 the bid item selections utilized in the supplier-associated bid request.

1 42. The computer-executable instructions of claim 41, wherein the means for
2 generating the buyer-associated bid request further comprises:
3 means for receiving buyer-associated bid request data from the buyer for the
4 buyer-associated bid request; and
5 means for storing the buyer-associated bid request data within fields associated
6 with at least a portion of the bid item selections.

1 43. The computer-executable instructions of claim 42, further comprising:
2 means for receiving the supplier bid response; and
3 wherein the supplier bid response includes bid response data within fields
4 associated with at least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in the buyer-associated bid
5 request.

1 44. The computer-executable instructions of claim 43, further comprising:
2 means for receiving the subcontracting-entity bid response; and
3 wherein the subcontracting-entity bid response includes bid response data within
4 fields associated with at least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in the supplier-
5 associated bid request.

1 45. The computer-executable instructions of claim 44, further comprising means for
2 transmitting the supplier bid response to the buyer upon completion of all required ones of the
3 fields by the supplier.

1 46. The computer-executable instructions of claim 45, further comprising means for
2 transmitting the subcontracting-entity bid response to the supplier upon completion of all
3 required ones of the fields by the subcontracting entity.

1 47. The computer-executable instructions of claim 44, further comprising:
2 means for receiving an acceptance of the subcontracting-entity bid response;
3 means for receiving a selection of at least a portion of the bid response data
4 included in the subcontracting-entity bid response; and
5 means for updating the supplier bid response with the selected at least a portion of
6 the bid response data included in the subcontracting-entity bid response.

1 48. The computer-executable instructions of claim 47, further comprising means for
2 transmitting the supplier bid response to the buyer.

1 49. The computer-executable instructions of claim 48, further comprising means for
2 receiving a buyer request to access data relative to the subcontracting-entity bid response.

1 50. The computer-executable instructions of claim 43, wherein the means for
2 transmitting the buyer-associated bid request comprises means for selecting the at least one
3 supplier to receive the buyer-associated bid request using the buyer-associated bid request data.

1 51. The computer-executable instructions of claim 44, wherein the means for
2 transmitting the supplier-associated bid request comprises selecting the at least one
3 subcontracting entity to receive the supplier-associated bid request using the supplier-associated
4 bid request data.

1 52. The computer-executable instructions of claim 50, wherein the means for
2 selecting the at least one supplier further comprises:
3 means for maintaining supplier information associated with the at least one
4 supplier; and
5 means for comparing the buyer-associated bid request data with the supplier
6 information to select the at least one supplier.

1 53. The computer-executable instructions of claim 51, wherein the means for
2 selecting the at least one subcontracting entity further comprises:
3 means for maintaining subcontracting-entity information associated with the at
4 least one subcontracting entity; and
5 means for comparing the supplier-associated bid request data with the
6 subcontracting-entity information to select the at least one subcontracting entity.

1 54. The computer-executable instructions of claim 51, further comprising:
2 means for receiving the subcontracting-entity bid response;
3 means for receiving the supplier bid response;
4 means for receiving a supplier bid award;
5 means for transmitting a purchase requisition to the supplier;
6 means for transmitting a parsed purchase requisition to the subcontracting entity;
7 and
8 wherein the parsed purchase requisition is a subset of the purchase requisition.

1 55. The computer-executable instructions of claim 54, wherein the purchase
2 requisition is submitted to the supplier for purposes of acceptance and tax assessment.

1 56. The computer-executable instructions of claim 54, wherein the parsed purchase
2 requisition is submitted to the subcontracting entity for purposes of acceptance and tax
3 assessment.

1 57. The computer-executable instructions of claim 54, further comprising:
2 means for receiving a completed parsed purchase requisition from the
3 subcontracting entity; and
4 means for generating a completed purchase requisition.

1 58. The computer-executable instructions of claim 57, wherein the means for
2 generating the completed purchase requisition comprises means for aggregating at least one
3 completed purchase requisition.

1 59. The computer-executable instructions of claim 57, further comprising:
2 means for generating a buyer-associated purchase order to the supplier;
3 means for generating a supplier-associated purchase order to the subcontracting
4 entity; and
5 means for generating a buyer-associated purchase order to the subcontracting
6 entity responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may be paid directly by the
7 buyer.

1 60. The computer-executable instructions of claim 51, wherein the means for
2 generating the supplier-associated bid request further comprises:
3 means for receiving supplier-associated bid request data from the supplier for the
4 supplier-associated bid request;
5 wherein the supplier-associated bid request data is selected from buyer-associated
6 bid request data; and
7 means for storing the supplier-associated bid request data within fields associated
8 with at least a portion of the bid item selections utilized in the buyer-associated bid request.

1 61. A method of managing a project bid process, the method comprising:
2 receiving an enablement request relative to a subcontracting entity;
3 receiving an affiliation request relative to a primary supplier, the affiliation
4 request requesting that the subcontracting entity be affiliated with the primary supplier;
5 transmitting a buyer-associated bid request to the supplier;
6 transmitting, to the subcontracting entity, of a daisy chain quotation associated
7 with the buyer-associated bid request;
8 receiving a completed daisy chain quotation from the subcontracting entity, the
9 completed daisy chain quotation comprising completed applicable daisy chain quotation items of
10 the daisy chain quotation transmitted to the subcontracting entity;
11 updating a supplier bid response to the buyer-associated bid request using at least
12 some of the completed applicable daisy chain quotation items; and
13 transmitting the updated supplier bid response to the buyer.

1 62. The method of claim 61, further comprising:
2 transmitting a buyer bid award to the supplier;
3 transmitting a purchase requisition to the supplier;
4 parsing the purchase requisition; and
5 transmitting the parsed purchase requisition to the subcontracting entity.

1 63. The method of claim 62, further comprising:

2 receiving a completed purchase requisition from the subcontracting entity;

3 aggregating the completed purchase requisition received from the subcontracting

4 entity; and

5 transmitting a purchase order to at least one of the supplier and the subcontracting

6 entity.

1 64. The method of claim 63, wherein the step of transmitting the purchase order

2 comprises:

3 determining whether the subcontracting entity may be paid directly by the buyer;

4 and

5 responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may be paid directly

6 by the buyer:

7 transmitting a purchase order to the supplier;

8 parsing the transmitted purchase order to segment purchase order details

9 relative to the subcontracting entity; and

10 transmitting a parsed purchase order to the subcontracting entity.

1 65. The method of claim 63, wherein the step of transmitting the purchase order

2 comprises:

3 determining whether the subcontracting entity may be paid directly by the buyer;

4 and

5 responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may not be paid

6 directly by the buyer, transmitting a purchase order to the supplier.

1 66. The method of claim 63, further comprising transmitting a subcontracting entity
2 voucher to the supplier.

1 67. The method of claim 63, further comprising transmitting a supplier voucher to the
2 buyer.

1 68. The method of claim 66, further comprising transmitting a supplier voucher to the
2 buyer.

1 69. The method of claim 67, further comprising receiving a buyer voucher approval.

1 70. The method of claim 68, further comprising receiving a buyer voucher approval.

1 71. The method of claim 69, further comprising transmitting an invoice to the buyer.

1 72. The method of claim 70, further comprising transmitting an invoice to the buyer.

1 73. In a computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored
2 thereon, the computer-executable instructions comprising:

3 means for receiving an enablement request relative to a subcontracting entity;

4 means receiving an affiliation request relative to a primary supplier, the affiliation
5 request requesting that the subcontracting entity be affiliated with the primary supplier;

6 means for transmitting a buyer-associated bid request to the supplier;

7 means for transmitting, to the subcontracting entity, of a daisy chain quotation
8 associated with the buyer-associated bid request;

9 means for receiving a completed daisy chain quotation from the subcontracting
10 entity, the completed daisy chain quotation comprising completed applicable daisy chain
11 quotation items of the daisy chain quotation transmitted to the subcontracting entity;

12 means for updating a supplier bid response to the buyer-associated bid request
13 using at least some of the completed applicable daisy chain quotation items; and

14 means for transmitting the updated supplier bid response to the buyer.

1 74. The computer-executable instructions of claim 73, further comprising:

2 means for transmitting a buyer bid award to the supplier;

3 means for transmitting a purchase requisition to the supplier;

4 means for parsing the purchase requisition; and

5 means for transmitting the parsed purchase requisition to the subcontracting
6 entity.

1 75. The computer-executable instructions of claim 74, further comprising:
2 means for receiving a completed purchase requisition from the subcontracting
3 entity;
4 means for aggregating the completed purchase requisition received from the
5 subcontracting entity; and
6 means for transmitting a purchase order to at least one of the supplier and the
7 subcontracting entity.

1 76. The computer-executable instructions of claim 75, wherein the means for of
2 transmitting the purchase order comprises:

3 means for determining whether the subcontracting entity may be paid directly by
4 the buyer; and

5 means responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may be paid
6 directly by the buyer:

7 for transmitting a purchase order to the supplier;

8 for parsing the transmitted purchase order to segment purchase order
9 details relative to the subcontracting entity; and

10 for transmitting a parsed purchase order to the subcontracting entity.

1 77. The computer-executable instructions of claim 75, wherein the means for
2 transmitting the purchase order comprises:

3 means for determining whether the subcontracting entity may be paid directly by
4 the buyer; and

5 means, responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may not be
6 paid directly by the buyer, for transmitting a purchase order to the supplier.

1 78. The computer-executable instructions of claim 75, further comprising means for
2 transmitting a subcontracting entity voucher to the supplier.

1 79. The computer-executable instructions of claim 75, further comprising means for
2 transmitting a supplier voucher to the buyer.

1 80. The computer-executable instructions of claim 78, further comprising means for
2 transmitting a supplier voucher to the buyer.

1 81. The computer-executable instructions of claim 79, further comprising means for
2 receiving a buyer voucher approval.

1 82. The computer-executable instructions of claim 80, further comprising means for
2 receiving a buyer voucher approval.

1 83. The computer-executable instructions of claim 81, further comprising means for
2 transmitting an invoice to the buyer.

1 84. The computer-executable instructions of claim 82, further comprising means for
2 transmitting an invoice to the buyer.

1 85. A computer system for managing a project bid process, the computer system
2 comprising:
3 a database system;
4 a server connected to the database system, wherein the server is operable to:
5 receive an enablement request relative to a subcontracting entity;
6 receive an affiliation request relative to a primary supplier, the affiliation
7 request requesting that the subcontracting entity be affiliated with the primary supplier;
8 transmit a buyer-associated bid request to the supplier;
9 transmit, to the subcontracting entity, of a daisy chain quotation associated
10 with the buyer-associated bid request;
11 receive a completed daisy chain quotation from the subcontracting entity,
12 the completed daisy chain quotation comprising completed applicable daisy chain quotation
13 items of the daisy chain quotation transmitted to the subcontracting entity;
14 update a supplier bid response to the buyer-associated bid request using at
15 least some of the completed applicable daisy chain quotation items; and
16 transmit the updated supplier bid response to the buyer.

1 86. The computer system of claim 85, wherein the server is further operable to:
2 transmit a buyer bid award to the supplier;
3 transmit a purchase requisition to the supplier;
4 parse the purchase requisition; and
5 transmit the parsed purchase requisition to the subcontracting entity.

1 87. The computer system of claim 86, wherein the server is further operable to:
2 receive a completed purchase requisition from the subcontracting entity;
3 aggregate the completed purchase requisition received from the subcontracting
4 entity; and
5 transmit a purchase order to at least one of the supplier and the subcontracting
6 entity.

1 88. The computer system of claim 87, wherein the transmission of the purchase order
2 comprises:
3 determining whether the subcontracting entity may be paid directly by the buyer;
4 and
5 responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may be paid directly
6 by the buyer:
7 transmitting a purchase order to the supplier;
8 parsing the transmitted purchase order to segment purchase order details
9 relative to the subcontracting entity; and
10 transmitting a parsed purchase order to the subcontracting entity.

1 89. The computer system of claim 87, wherein the transmission of the purchase order
2 comprises:
3 determining whether the subcontracting entity may be paid directly by the buyer;
4 and
5 responsive to a determination that the subcontracting entity may not be paid
6 directly by the buyer, transmitting a purchase order to the supplier.

1 90. The computer system of claim 87, wherein the server is further operable to
2 transmit a subcontracting entity voucher to the supplier.

1 91. The computer system of claim 87, wherein the server is further operable to
2 transmit a supplier voucher to the buyer.

1 92. The computer system of claim 90, wherein the server is further operable to
2 transmit a supplier voucher to the buyer.

1 93. The computer system of claim 91, wherein the server is further operable to
2 receive a buyer voucher approval.

1 94. The computer system of claim 92, wherein the server is further operable to
2 receive a buyer voucher approval.

1 95. The computer system of claim 93, wherein the server is further operable to
2 transmit an invoice to the buyer.

- 1 96. The computer system of claim 94, wherein the server is further operable to
- 2 transmit an invoice to the buyer.